



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Contact: Eileen Force
(414) 286-8504

Barrett Urges State to Make Balanced Investment
Mayor: 'Mass transit alternatives must be considered along with highway spending'

MILWAUKEE – A letter from senior Barrett Administration officials to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation urges the state agency to incorporate mass transit alternatives as it considers freeway capacity expansion projects. The letter specifically addressed the environmental analysis/preliminary engineering phase for the construction of the Zoo Interchange set to begin in the City of Milwaukee.

The letter from Department of Public Works (DPW) Commissioner Jeffrey Mantes and City Engineer Jeffrey Polenske states, "It is DPW's expectation that a legitimate alternative analysis be performed that includes both freeway improvements and rapid transit improvements."

Citing disappointment that the process for the I-94 North-South corridor did not include rapid transit alternatives, Mantes and Polenske wrote, "We continue to disagree with the general approach WISDOT takes by only implementing the highway components of the regional transportation plan while leaving rapid and express transit components to local jurisdictions."

Mantes and Polenske wrote, "It is DPW's hope that WISDOT takes a more multimodal approach when considering improvements to the Zoo Interchange and future southeastern Wisconsin freeway improvements."

From 1992-2007, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has spent \$19.2 billion on highways yet just \$2.2 billion on mass transit and rail projects. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett has longed called for a balanced transportation investment strategy.

"The State of Wisconsin has poured billions into highways over the years, yet investment in mass transit has failed to keep pace," said Mayor Barrett. "It is time to close these enormous spending gaps, and develop a comprehensive plan where multiple transit modes complement one and our State transportation dollars are properly balanced and wisely invested."